



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: AMY FILJONES	
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http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

ALIEN WHO ILLEGALLY RE-ENTERED THE UNITED STATES SENTENCED TO 77 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Orlando, Florida, - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp today sentenced Jose Arturo Garcia-Hernandez (age 40) to 6 years and two months in federal prison for illegally re-entering the United States after a previous deportation. Garcia-Hernandez had entered a guilty plea on October 1, 2010. After completing his federal prison sentence, Garcia-Hernandez will be deported back to his native country, Mexico.

According to the evidence presented in court, officials at the Osceola County Jail notified federal agents in August 2010 that an inmate in their custody, Garcia-Hernandez, would be completing a jail sentence on state criminal charges. Background checks of Garcia-Hernandez soon revealed that he was a person who was in the United States illegally. When confronted about his identity, Garcia-Hernandez provided agents with a sworn statement in which he admitted that he was a Mexican citizen and that he had crossed into the United States illegally. He also confirmed that he never had sought permission from the Attorney General of the United States, or the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, to re-enter the country.

The evidence presented at Garcia Hernandez's sentencing hearing showed that he

had been previously deported from the United States on two separate occasions (1990 and 2007). Garcia-Hernandez also had used at least five different aliases to hide his identity and had amassed 16 separate criminal convictions since 1989, including felony convictions for robbery, theft and drug possession.

This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr..